

146. (New) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack including bills having a magnetic attribute, the device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least one output receptacle for receiving the bills after each of the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle past an evaluation region to the at least one output receptacle along a transport path, the transport mechanism being adapted to transport bills such that their narrow dimension is parallel to the direction of transport;

a magnetic scanhead disposed adjacent to the bill evaluation region, the scanhead including a plurality of closely spaced magnetic sensors each adapted to detect the presence of a magnetic attribute of currency bills, the plurality of magnetic sensors covering a substantial portion of a long dimension of the currency bills, the scanhead being adapted to retrieve magnetic characteristic information from the currency bill;

a memory adapted to store master magnetic characteristic information corresponding to a plurality of types of currency bills; and

an evaluating unit adapted to evaluate the currency bill by comparing the retrieved magnetic characteristic information to the stored master magnetic characteristic information, the evaluating unit being adapted to generate an error signal when the retrieved magnetic characteristic information does not favorably compare to the stored master magnetic characteristic information.

147. (New). The currency evaluation device of claim 146 wherein the spacing between each of the plurality of magnetic sensors is less than about one millimeter.

148. (New) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack including bills having a magnetic attribute, the device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least one output receptacle for receiving the bills after each of the bills have been evaluated;